Services and closure of CIFT, Kozhikode

1969. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 574 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th February, 2006 and state:

(a) whether the Research Centre of CIFT a Kozhikode is having substantial revenue from various sources;

(b) if so, whether above Centre is rendering its services to fisherman community of Malabar region; and

(c) if so, whether steps would be taken to countinue the functioning of the above Centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Research Centre of CIFT at Kozhikode is generating revenue from fees collected for analysis of water samples, ice, fish meal and other fish and fishery products and from training programmes. During the past five years, the revenue collected from the above services offered by the Centre varied in the range of Rs. 37,000 to Rs. 70,000/- per annum. Thus, the Centre is mainly providing services to fish processing industry.

(c) The Research Centre of CIFT functioning at Kozhikode is a small Centre of the Institute. The Institute's Headquarters located at Kochi in Kerala, is addressing all the quality control and assurance aspects related to fish processing technology, providing technical assistance by way of analysis of raw-materials, finished products of fish and shellfish meant for export, water and ice samples and fish meal, etc. along the whole of Kerala coast.

The Institute's Headquarters at Kochi also has a Referral Laboratory for fish, established in 2004 for providing comprehensive analysis of all the seafood products.

The Expenditure Finance Committee, while considering the X Five Year Plan proposal of the Institute, in its meeting held at the ICAR Headquarters, New Delhi on 18.06.2003, decided to shift/merge the Centre with the Institute's Headquarters at Kochi with a view to consolidate research efforts. The other reasons for such decision of shifting/merger

of the Centre are present research relevance, proper utilization of scientists and associated manpower, avoidance of duplication of research efforts and strengthening of identified centres for strategic and applied reseach.

Drug pricing policy

1970. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of controlled and control-free drugs and branded and non-branded drugs;

(b) the existing policy on pricing of each category of drugs;

(c) whether proposals have been received by Government for imposing trade margins on each category of drugs both for wholesale and retail; and

(d) if so, the details and reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) As per the present Pharma Pricing Policy, the 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are under price control and their prices are fixed/revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 95. These drugs have been kept under price control on the basis of criteria mentioned in 'Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986', announced in September, 1994.

Prices of non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc. The NPPA monitors the prices of medicines as per monthly Retail Audit Reports of ORG-IMS Research Pvt. Ltd. The Government takes corrective measures where the public interest is found to be adversely affected..

Based on the recommendations of the Committee under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (Pharmaceuticals) and the Task Force